Message Text

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PAGE 01   TRIPOL 00526 091059Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
    H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
    SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 EUR-12 /109 W
              ------------------066204 091112Z /16
R 091010Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5351
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, ET, CU, LY
SUBJECT: CUBANS IN ERITREA

REF: STATE 086083 (NOTAL)

1. LIBYA'S EARLIER SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN MOVEMENT WAS TERMINA-
TED SEVERAL YEARS AGO IN FAVOR OF MENGISTU REGIME. NEVER-
THELESS, AN ERITREAN OFFICE CLAIMING TO REPRESENT ALL GROUPS
HAS REMAINED IN TRIPOLI. REPRESENTATIVE, WHO MAINTAINS
CONTACT WITH ARAB DIPLOMATS AND OCCASIONALLY ITALIAN EMBASSY,
HAS RECENTLY BEEN SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBLE
RESUMPTION OF SOME FORM OF LIBYAN ASSISTANCE.

2. FOR QADHAFI ABANDONMENT OF ERITREANS WAS SORE POINT
WITH OTHER ARAB BROTHERS WHICH HE SOUGHT TO JUSTIFY BY
"PROGRESSIVE" NATURE OF MENGISTU REGIME AND EXIGENCIES OF
SOMALI INCURSIONS IN OGADEN. WITH THE END OF OGADEN
FIGHTING QADHAFI MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER HIS ETHIOPIAN
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POLICIES. CERTAINLY HE WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM EVEN
REJECTIONIST ARABS TO PREVENT AN ERITREAN MASSACRE IN
WHICH CUBANS PARTICIPATE. SOME ARAB AND AFRICAN DIPLO-
MATS IN TRIPOLI BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI'S RECENT DENUNCIA-
TIONS OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN
AIMED AT CUBAN AND SOVIET PRESENCE. LIKELY ALSO THAT
DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO RAPPROACHMENT WITH SUDAN TOUCHED

ON ERITREAN QUESTION.

3. QADHAFI'S INTEREST IN HAVING A ROLE IN HORN AFFAIRS
MIGHT INDEED LEAD HIM TO SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
AND TO DISCOURAGE CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN REGION.
GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS, LIBYANS UNLIKELY TO
RESPOND TO US SUGGESTIONS ON ERITREAN SITUATION, HOWEVER,
APPROACHES BY OTHER ARABS, PARTICULARLY ALGERIANS AND/OR
SUDANESE, MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ERITREA, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Remarks:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PDEV, MILI, ET, CU, LY, (QADHAFI, MU\'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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